



Best Practice: Color Changing Visitor ID Badge



Badges start out white. After eight to 12 hours, the word "EXPIRED" can be seen in red.

Category:	Access Control
Location:	Ports of Auckland, New Zealand
Date Observed:	30 September 2004
POC:	Ports of Auckland, Port Services; 0064 9 366 0055
WWW:	www.poal.co.nz

Description: Color Changing Visitor Identification Badges.

Discussion: The Port issues adhesive visitor identification (ID) badges that are readily available and customizable from a commercial provider. Eight to 12 hours after the backing is exposed to air, a chemical reaction with the air causes the badge to automatically change color to from white to red. The color change indicates the badge has expired. The badge is also designed to indicate which facility areas a visitor is permitted to access and if they are required to be escorted by port personnel. Additional wording on the badge reminds visitors that they are required to check out with security before leaving the facility.

Potential Down-side: It is not difficult to counterfeit a similar looking ID badge on a laser printer that would never change color to indicate it has expired. Some visitors might object to placing a stick-on visitor's badge directly on their clothing.

Conclusion: This color change method is not fail proof, but it provides an easy way for security and other employees to identify expired visitor badges. The cost is relatively inexpensive compared to other types of ID badging systems.

Cost (approximately): Purchase cost is \$50 per 1,000 badges. No maintenance costs involved.